

ATTACHMENT A



Applicant:	Karl-Lutz Lauterjung	§	Group Art Unit:	3731
		§		
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		§		
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For:	Prosthetic Repair of Body	§	Confirmation No.:	5209
	Passages	§		

CLAIMS AS OF AUGUST 17, 2005

Claims 1-36 (Canceled)

37. A method for securing a prosthetic device in a body passage comprising:

folding a resilient, deformable annular ring to assume a first configuration having a cross-sectional area smaller than the cross-sectional area of an undeformed ring, said ring comprising a bundle of closely associated, concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of wire; the diameter of said bundle of windings corresponding with the diameter of said ring, said ring attached to and coaxial with a free end of a tubular graft;

positioning said ring at a desired position within a body passage; and allowing said ring to resiliently deform to a second configuration having a larger cross-sectional area than in said first configuration, but still having a cross-sectional area smaller than that of said undeformed ring.

38. The method of claim 37 further including inserting a deformed ring in said body passage, positioning said ring at a desired location in a body passage and, releasing said deformed ring to allow said ring to expand and engage that body passage.

39. The method of claim 38 including selectively compressing and releasing the compression of said ring in position within a body passage using a remote actuator.

40. The method of claim 37 including positioning said prosthetic device at a desired location in a body passage by inserting said prosthetic device into the interior of a tubular catheter, positioning the catheter at a desired location within a body passage, and ejecting said prosthetic device from the interior of said catheter.

Claims 41-51 (Canceled)

52. The method of claim 37, further including folding said ring to form a c-shape about a diametric axis.

53. The method of claim 40 including repositioning said prosthetic device after release from the interior of said catheter.

54. A method comprising:
folding an annular resilient element along a diametric axis into a C-shaped configuration, said element attached to a graft; and
positioning said graft within a first blood vessel to extend along a length of said first blood vessel, a part of said positioned graft to extend past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection, said element to contact said first blood vessel while in said C-shaped configuration.

55. The method of claim 54 including providing a graft having a diameter that is approximately the same as the diameter of said first blood vessel.

56. The method of claim 54 including providing an element having an undeformed diameter greater than the diameter of said graft.

57. The method of claim 54 including providing an element with an undeformed diameter greater than the diameter of said first blood vessel.

58. The method of claim 54 including providing an element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire.

59. A method comprising:
attaching an annular resilient element to an end of a graft;
folding said attached element along a diametric axis into a C-shaped configuration overall; and
resiliently engaging an arcuate portion of said C-shaped element with the interior of a first blood vessel.

60. The method of claim 59 including positioning said graft within said first blood vessel to extend along a length of said first blood vessel and past a point of an intersection of said first blood vessel and a second blood vessel so as not to occlude an opening to permit communication of said intersection.

61. The method of claim 59 including providing a graft having a diameter that is approximately the same as a diameter of said first blood vessel.

62. The method of claim 59 including providing an element having a diameter that is greater than the diameter of said graft.

63. The method of claim 59 including providing an element having an unfolded diameter that is greater than a diameter of the first blood vessel.

64. The method of claim 59 including providing an element comprising a bundle of concentric, radially overlapping windings formed of a strand of resilient wire.

65. A method comprising:
attaching an annular resilient element to a graft; and
positioning said graft within a first blood vessel that is intersected by
a second blood vessel, a part of said positioned graft to extend past the intersection
of said first blood vessel and said second blood vessel so as not to occlude an
opening to permit communication of said intersection, said positioned graft and
said positioned annular element to contact said first blood vessel on both sides of
the intersection.